

NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE ESCORT.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, 5th Broadway.—LOVE CHASE.

LAURA KLEIN'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE MARY.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—KATHERINE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, 4th Broadway.—DOE GARDEN.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—CON-

BRYANT'S MINSTER, Broadway.—THE

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 5th Broadway.—SONS

GARTIES CONCERT ROOM, 6th Broadway.—DRAWING

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 6th Broadway.—JACQUES

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, 6th Broadway.—JACQUES

PARLIAMENTARY CABINET OF WONDERS, 6th Broadway.—

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 6th Broadway.—BURLESQUE

BOCCA, DANCA, &c.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, April 24, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

A change in the Navy Department has, it appears, been resolved upon by the President. The removal of Secretary Welles is said to be only a question of time dependent upon the judicious selection of a successor in this critical moment of our naval history. It is reported that the names of three gentlemen are strongly urged upon Mr. Lincoln for Secretary of the Navy—namely, General Banks, Governor Sprague, and Judge Davis, of Illinois.

By the information gathered from several fugitives from Norfolk at Fortress Monroe yesterday, it would appear that the presumption that the Merrimack was aground of Craney Island on the occasion of her last attempt to get out, proves to be quite true, as was supposed by many people who were observing her. If she lay helplessly at the mercy of our fleet for any length of time, as she must have done if these statements be correct, it was a great oversight on the part of some one that she was not either captured or crippled as she lay there; and the neglect to attack her may have much to do with the contemplated change in the Navy Department. These fugitives report the Merrimack still at the Gosport Navy Yard. Workmen were engaged in placing iron shields over her port holes. It was supposed that the improvements would be completed and the Merrimack would be out again in two or three days. Nothing was said in Norfolk about the bursting of her gun. The steamer Jamestown and steam tug Beaufort went up the James river on Monday, and the Yorktown on Sunday, to obtain coal at Richmond. They took in tow a number of schooners loaded with iron, to be rolled into plates at the Tredegar Works in Richmond. Four new gunboats have been launched at the Navy Yard, and four more are in the course of construction at Norfolk, and part of these with iron plates.

The French Minister arrived at Fortress Monroe yesterday, on the steamer Gasendi, on his return from Richmond. The object of his mission has, of course, not transpired, but despatches were at once forwarded by him to this city for instant transportation to France. No political importance, it would appear, is attached in Washington to the visit of M. Mercier to the rebel capital.

Our news from Fredericksburg is important. The steamer Yankee went up the Rappahannock river to that city on Tuesday, carefully avoiding the obstructions in the river, which the rebels had laid some seven miles below the city. Our flotilla captured recently seven rebel schooners—one of which had a valuable cargo of dry goods, medicines and saltpetre—and also two small steamers. The rebel pickets are occasionally seen on the south side of the river. Our troops are still in possession of Fredericksburg, the residents of which are not interfered with in their usual business pursuits.

The report circulated by the rebels as to the defeat of General Burnside's troops near Elizabeth City, turns out to have been based upon a little skirmish on the beach above the city on Saturday, in which only five hundred of our troops were engaged. The rebels fed upon being attacked, leaving fifteen killed and thirty-five wounded behind them.

The latest news from the Mississippi, up to yesterday, comes to us by the arrival of a steamer at Cairo, which reports that for three days previous no firing had occurred either from our fleet or the rebels, both being apparently waiting for an effective moment to arrive. The last accounts from Fort Wright state that the rebels have fourteen gunboats and the ram Manassas lying off the forts, and that Captains Hollins and McKee were also there. Our map of that portion of the Mississippi to-day, showing the rebel defences, including Forts Wright, Randolph, Pillow, and the fortifications of Memphis, will be found of the highest importance by the Bohemian, at Portland, and Persia, at New York, we have news from Europe to the 13th of April, three days later.

The commander of the United States gunboat Iroquois, at Palermo, had arrested the master and crew of the schooner W. C. Alexander, of Savannah, and taken them on board his vessel as prisoners. They were subsequently released at the instance of some of the officers of the port.

England remained intensely excited on the subject of the great naval revolution, as likely to affect her "supremacy" on the ocean and the security of her coast. The duel between improved artillery and iron naval armor at Shoeburyness having produced no very satisfactory result was to be continued, Sir William Armstrong promising to construct some very formidable guns according to his peculiar principle. We publish to-day a full report of the interesting experiments made at Shoeburyness, in order

to test the resistive strength of the iron plates in use in the Warrior.

The question of continuing the work on the coast land fortifications was brought up in the House of Lords, and—judging from the remarks made by Earl de Grey and Ripon—it appears as if the Cabinet was anxious to continue them to the extent of fifty millions of dollars, and then supplement them with iron floating batteries.

Napoleon had directed his Minister of Marine to report the number of wooden vessels of war which can be sheathed with iron.

England, it was said, was endeavoring to induce Spain to withdraw from the alliance with France against Mexico; the British government promises not to object to the occupation of Hayti by Queen Isabella in return. The Paris correspondent of the London Times intimates that Spain may retire from Mexico, but for another reason—her anxiety to preserve Cuba from an attack by such American vessels as the Monitor or Merrimack.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, a resolution was adopted instructing the Military Committee to inquire whether any General in the army before Yorktown had exhibited himself drunk in face of the enemy, and if any measures had been taken for the trial and punishment of such officer. A bill prescribing an additional oath for grand and petit jurors in the United States courts was introduced by Mr. Davis. The bill recognizing the independence of Hayti and Liberia, and providing for the appointment of diplomatic representatives thereto, was taken up, and Mr. Sumner made a speech in support of it. The consideration of the Confiscation bill was then resumed, and Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, concluded his speech in opposition to it. Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, offered an amendment to this bill, specifying that the act shall apply to persons who may hereafter hold office under the rebel government; but the Senate adjourned without taking action on the subject.

In the House of Representatives, a bill appropriating \$1,850 to indemnify the owners of the Danish bark Jorgen Lorentzen, illegally seized by the blockading squadron, was passed. The Military Committee made an important report on the subject of coast and harbor defences, which may be found in full in another part of to-day's paper. A bill was also reported providing for a board of commissioners to examine into the coast and harbor defences. The consideration of the Confiscation bill was then resumed, and the bill pending on Tuesday was laid on the table by a vote of 55 against 52. The next bill taken up was to facilitate the suppression of the rebellion, and to prevent the recurrence of the same. It authorizes the President to direct our Generals to declare the slaves of the rebels free, and pledges the faith of the United States to make full and fair compensation to loyal men who have actively supported the Union for any losses they may sustain by virtue of this bill. Mr. Olin, republican, of New York, as the Judiciary Committee had recommended that none of the Confiscation bills ought to pass, moved that a select committee of seven be appointed to take the subject into consideration. Mr. Colfax, republican, of Indiana, advocated the appointment of a select committee. Mr. Dunn, republican, of Indiana, was opposed to a sweeping confiscation bill. He wanted a distinction made against the leaders. Mr. Bingham, republican, of Ohio, maintained the propriety of a bill to punish all rebel property by depriving them of their property. Mr. Lehigh, opposition, of Pennsylvania, was opposed to confiscation bills. He looked on the march of our armies as the proper mode of suppressing the rebellion and re-establishing the constitution. Mr. Hickman, republican, of Pennsylvania, claimed that the constitution gave the President ample power without Congressional action. Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, was against all confiscation measures, which would tend to exasperate the war, and postpone the time of putting down the rebellion. After further debate, without action, the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Bohemian, from London, on the 11th instant, and the Persia, from Queenstown on the 13th instant, made their ports at Portland and New York respectively yesterday. The Tontonia, from Southampton on the 10th inst., also reached this port yesterday. Our advices by the Bohemian and Persia are three days later than those brought by the City of New York. Consols closed in London, on the 12th instant, at 93½, a 95½ for money. Cotton experienced a slight advance in Liverpool on the sales of the week. On the 12th of April the market closed buoyant, with prices unchanged. The market for breadstuffs was quiet and steady. Provisions were dull.

Italy, Austria, Greece and Turkey were still agitated by political discussion, revolution, and an actual war now raging between the Turks and Montenegrins. Napoleon had been advised by some of his courtiers against visiting London during the summer, as that city was known to be "overflowing" with revolutionary refugees who were greatly embittered in feeling against him. The Emperor, it is said, rejected the counsel. The Japanese Ambassadors arrived in Paris on the 7th of April, and alighted at the Hotel du Louvre, where apartments had been prepared for them. They were received at the Lyons Railway station by M. Feuille de Conches, "Introducer of Ambassadors," and a detachment of cavalry escorted them to the hotel. The number of emigrants who left Havre during the month of March amounted to 738, of whom 708 went to New York and thirty to the banks of the La Plata. It is proposed, says a letter from Toulon, in the *Messenger du Midi*, to form a French experimental squadron of iron-plated vessels, to be placed under the orders of Vice Admiral Bonet-Willmanns. The Magenta, Solferino, Normandie, Couronne, Invincible and Gloire are mentioned as to form a part of it.

The steamer North Star arrived at this port at noon yesterday. She brings us very interesting news from Central and South America. The progress of Chile is very promising and satisfactory. The wheat crop will be a very large one this year, and in financial and commercial circles there has been a very marked improvement. Bolivia has been troubled by another revolution. The other republics were still struggling against the maladministration of their affairs. The war in the United States had greatly affected the political arrangements of the different governments. The scarcity of money was the general complaint, and the prominent idea was to plant cereals, as a provision against a failure of supplies from America. The health of the different countries was good, and every exertion was being made for the pacification of the turbulent republics.

The Legislature of this State for the present year brought its session to a close at eleven o'clock yesterday forenoon. Both houses met at nine o'clock in the morning; but neither transacted much legislative business. The Assembly concurred in the Senate's amendments to the New York Tax Levy and passed the bill. In the Senate a farewell letter from the regular presiding officer, Lieutenant Governor Campbell, was read, and the President pro tempore made a few appropriate remarks, and then declared the session finally closed. At the same hour the House was addressed by the Speaker, and its proceedings for the year 1862 announced as terminated. A list of the acts passed during the session is given in another part of to-day's paper.

An adjourned meeting of the committee appoint-

ed to devise means of aid for the Florida Union refugees was held yesterday at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, at which a statement of the case of those expropriated citizens and an appeal to the people of New York in their behalf were adopted. The great pressure on our columns prevents us publishing a full report of the proceedings this morning.

Stocks were firm yesterday in Wall street, and government advances 1½ per cent. The exceptions to the market were Tobacco and Illinois Central, which were pressed for sale by the bears, and closed lower. Money was very easy; the Sub-Treasurer continued yesterday to allow five per cent on deposits. Exchange was steady at 112½ a 112¾. Gold 101½ a 101¾.

The cotton market was firmer yesterday, while the sales embraced about 800 bales, closing on the basis of 20½c. a 20c. for middling uplands. The foreign news tended to strengthen the market, and in the afternoon sales were made at 29½c. a 29c., with little to be had under the latter figure. The sales in Liverpool for the week ending the 11th instant having reached 82,000 bales, while the stock of America was reduced to 134,000 bales, and of all other kinds to 204,000 bales, giving a total of only 338,000 bales, encouraged the belief that prices in that market would not materially advance. Flour, under the influence of light receipts and better news from abroad, improved 5c. a 10c. per bbl., chiefly for the common and medium grades. Wheat was moderately dealt in, while prices were nominal. Corn was firmer, with sales of Western mixed at 58½c. a 60c., in store and delivered. Pork was steady at \$12 25 a \$12 37½ for mess, and prime at \$10 a \$10 25. Sugars were active and firm, with sales of 2,100 lbs. at steady prices. Coffee was quiet, with some inquiry for export. Prices were steady. The public tea sale previously noticed came off yesterday. The catalogue of about 5,000 half chests of greens and blacks was sold through. The company was good, but there was an absence of spirit, and the prices obtained did not vary materially from those current at private sale. Freight was without change of moment, while engagements were moderate. Wheat was taken to Liverpool, in bulk, at 7d.; four at 2s., and bacon at 22s. 6d.

The Designs of the Emperor Napoleon Upon England.

The letters of our European correspondents which we published yesterday, as well as private letters received in this country from England and France by the Persia, portray even more strongly than the debates in the British Parliament and the comments in the London press how thoroughly alarmed are the English government and the aristocracy at the tremendous consequences resulting from the action at the month of the James river. This great event in naval warfare constitutes a new epoch, and will produce the most momentous effects throughout all Europe. Nowhere will those effects be of greater magnitude than in France and England, whose relations are soon destined to undergo a remarkable change. The *entente cordiale* will soon be at an end, if it is not already broken up.

The curious course of Napoleon in Mexico foreshadows his purpose. He is going on with the campaign, contrary to the wishes of England and Spain, and in spite of them. He does not care about Mexico; but he feels that he is master of the situation, and he wants an opportunity to chastise both England and Spain. By means of Mexico he calculates to provoke a quarrel with those countries, and to finish the role which the First Consul did not complete. He has settled accounts with Russia and Austria. He made Turkey, in the one case, and Italy, in the other, the excuse for his action. He will now use Mexico as the pretext to pay off the Bourbon of Spain and the aristocracy of England.

The only security which Great Britain ever had against conquest by France was her wooden walls. These can no longer save her. Napoleon's superiority in iron-plated ships gives him the control of the seas, and leaves Britannia at his mercy. In a speech delivered in Parliament during the present month, Lord Palmerston states that in the course of the year four iron ships will be afloat and five fit for sea; next year two others; wooden ships will be plated, and the Achilles is to be built next year. Five others are in progress, to be constructed on the cupola system of the Monitor. In the year 1864 Lord Palmerston says England will have in all sixteen iron-plated vessels. Now, what is the readiness of France, as stated by Sir J. Pakington in reply? The French at this moment have five iron-cased vessels ready for sea; another will be ready shortly, and two of the largest class—the Magenta and Solferino—will be ready for sea in three months. Within eight months the Emperor can place twenty-four iron-covered ships in line; while of England the speaker observes, "I am afraid the noble Lord (Palmerston) will be unable to tell us that we have any gunboats at this time covered with iron, or that the government are constructing gunboats of that class." It appears that the vessels now being constructed draw twenty-six feet of water. The First Lord of the Admiralty boasts that if England were at war she could create Monitors by the dozen; but it would be too late if Napoleon were at war with England before the 1st of June. In that case he would not permit her to construct any, having the complete command of all her ports and rivers. Nor is this all. Lord Palmerston admits that the French have invented a gun that pierces armor plates; and the Prime Minister complies his country with the reflection that perhaps the iron used in France is not so good as English iron.

It is clear that England is at this moment helplessly in the power of France, and the Emperor is not the man to be slow to take advantage of her situation. With sixty armored gunboats he could easily capture the city of London; and, the capital in his power, he could revolutionize the country. The greatest revolutions and conquests have been effected by superiority of weapons. The Turks lost their military pre-eminence in Europe by not keeping pace with the age in improved weapons. A handful of Normans from France, by the aid of superior weapons, succeeded in conquering England; and now Napoleon III., with his iron-clad gunboats, will probably repeat that historical event. In the Crimean war the weapons of France were superior to those of Russia; in the Italian war they were superior to the Austrians, and now again they will be superior to the English. Had the first Napoleon possessed such appliances he would never have gone to St. Helena. His insular position alone protected England from his vengeance. He conceived, and partly carried into execution, a plan of invasion by means of a flotilla; but it is probable he never had full confidence in it. It was a hazardous experiment at best. He ordered two thousand flatboats to be constructed at Boulogne, to carry two hundred thousand men. When they were nearly ready his intention was to send the French fleet to the West Indies, in order that the English fleet might follow them there; but as soon as it reached Martinique it was to return, and then, sailing the British fleet, convey the flatboats across the Straits of Dover to Chatham. This operation it was calculated would take four days, and in

four days more after the landing Napoleon expected to be in London. He would have abolished the House of Lords and titled nobility, and proclaimed a republic, dividing among the people the estates of the nobility and gentry who opposed him. He would have protected the masses and enabled them to carry out a complete revolution. At the same time he would have raised the standard of insurrection in Ireland. Such were his confessions to O'Meara at St. Helena. But before his arrangements were perfected he was compelled to abandon his purpose to meet the coalition that had been formed against him on the Continent by the gold and the intrigues of England. The sun of Austerlitz dazzled him with its splendor, just as the pyramids of Egypt once before diverted him from Ireland.

The only rational doubt that could be entertained about his success was in regard to the flotilla. That difficulty is completely obviated in the case of his successor. He has the means of transport in a few hours by steam. His iron-clad gunboats not only can protect his troops, but capture London. Every motive of national and personal interest impels him to this enterprise. He secures permanently for France the first rank in Western Europe, while he leaves Russia to carry out her designs in the East, and probably offers her the tempting bribe of Constantinople. He humbles the hereditary enemy and maritime rival of France. He extracts the teeth of the old lion. He establishes his own dynasty, and he compels Prussia to restore the Rhenish provinces, which rightfully belong to France—the Alps and the Rhine being her natural boundaries. On the other hand, if he lets slip the opportunity of striking this blow England will at last build iron gunboats enough to outnumber his fleet, and she will form a coalition with the Continental Powers to crush him, as she did his uncle. It is therefore extremely probable that this sagacious and far-seeing statesman will strike the first blow, and disable "perfidious Albion;" and soon may we expect to hear of the Queen and all the royal family escaping to Australia or India to found a new kingdom, as the Queen of Portugal and her son Prince John embarked for Brazil half a century ago and founded a flourishing empire, when Napoleon the First declared that the House of Braganza had forfeited the throne, and his Marshal Junot entered the kingdom to carry out his will. This is the American war likely to change the destinies of all Europe and of the world.

Greely and Company in the Gun Business—Astounding Developments in Public Jobbery.

Poverty is a strong incentive to crime. Let a man fall, through incapacity or recklessness, in an honest, legitimate business, and he immediately turns public swindler, now-a-days, and attempts to fill his empty till with stealings from the public treasury. In our own, as in every other profession, there are numerous illustrations of this truth. The *Times*, for example, was once comparatively honest; but its lack of industry and enterprise soon impoverished it, and it was transformed into the organ of stock jobbers and lobbyists, while its editor degenerated into a lobby member of the Legislature and a copartner in the municipal ring. The *World* was a pious, conscientious, though dull and stupid journal, as long as it was in funds; but, as the public preferred news to piety, it soon became very poor, addicted itself to sulphurous India rubber and stolen mail and porter, and subsided into the doubtful position of an aider and abettor of Confiding Cummings and his government purchases. On the same principle, the once virtuous *Tribune* Association, having failed to make an honest living by publishing a poor abolition newspaper, has finally descended to public jobbery, and become a manufacturing company in the gun business.

We take Heaven and the back files of the *HERALD* to witness that not without sore regrets and earnest attempts at his reformation have we seen poor Greely gradually backsliding from an honest, though insane, fanaticism into a state of most wretched depravity. We have exhorted, entreated and warned him. Years ago, when he assumed a hypocritical mask to gull foolish people into "trading at his shop," we kindly exposed and corrected him. Later still, when he was urging this country into civil war by attempting to make money out of the abolition sentiment and anti-slavery societies, we warned him of the suicidal result of his folly. During the past year, when he became exposed to public reprobation and contempt; when his best friends deserted him and his last dime was mortgaged for quadruple its value, we still gave him the benefit of our advice, urged him to leave a profession for which he was unsuited and which he had disgraced, and demonstrated that he could make money and win fame by taking the field at the head of a negro brigade. To every successive step of his fall from grace we interposed our offers of old clothes, broken victuals, half price advertisements and prayers. Nor, when he entered the gift enterprise business; nor, when he joined the Broadway Railroad lobbyists; nor, when he repaid our charity by sending secret, slanderous circulars to our business patrons, did we cast him off utterly. He has himself, therefore, and not us, to blame for this new and worst exposition of his wicked courses.

Our readers will remember that Fitz Henry Warren, the Washington correspondent of the *Tribune*, was suddenly dismissed about the close of last year, on account of his attacks upon Secretary Cameron. In his place Samuel Wilkinson, a renegade pupil of Thurlow Weed, was immediately appointed, and from that time the *Tribune's* attacks upon Cameron ceased. A full explanation of this change of policy may be found in the reply of the Secretary of War to the resolution of Congress inquiring in regard to Cameron's contracts. From this document it appears that, in December last, soon after Wilkinson was appointed the *Tribune's* Washington correspondent, the members of the *Tribune* Association dug up an old charter for a concern called the Eagle Manufacturing Company, located at Eaglesville, Mansfield, Connecticut, and applied to Cameron for a contract to manufacture arms. Of this company, Mr. Almy, the commercial editor of the *Tribune*, was treasurer; Mr. Snow, the money reporter of the *Tribune*, was business manager, and Mr. Wilkinson, the Washington correspondent of the *Tribune*, was the agent to procure contracts. Poor Greely held, doubtless, the honorary but dishonorable office of President. Through Wilkinson, and as the price of the *Tribune's* silence, Cameron consented to give this *Tribune* Company a contract for twenty-five thousand muskets, at twenty dollars each; the first lot of the muskets to be de-

livered in May proximo—when all our army is already supplied with arms—and the last in 1863, when the war will be over. The profits upon this five hundred thousand dollars' worth of useless and unnecessary muskets will be about two hundred thousand dollars. With these ill-gotten gains Greely proposes to re-establish the *Tribune*. A more palpable job does not disgrace the history of this war.

As if to entirely identify the *Tribune* with this contract, Secretary Cameron endorsed upon the back of the document the name of the paper; and a telegram from Snow to Wilkinson, explaining that the *Tribune's* Eagle Company was not identical with one in Rhode Island (to which the contract was first given, by mistake), is appended to the original paper, and explains the agency which influenced Secretary Cameron. Thus, by the revival of an old concern, and an adroit manipulation of a Secretary of War, Greely has secured a contract paying him more than Morgan's two and a half per cent brokerage, more than Cummings' commission on army stores, more than Raymond's Broadway Railroad scrip, more even than our old friend, the Chevalier Webb's, sale of himself to the United States Bank. Dana, who is something of a journalist and not much of a jobber, refused to consent to this transformation of the *Tribune* establishment into a musket manufactory, and was therefore inconspicuously kicked out, and his shares bought up by quack doctors and members of abolition societies. By a singular chance he has since been appointed a commissioner to examine, at Cairo, the accounts of the purchase of part of the two million muskets, costing forty-six millions of dollars, in which Cameron indulged. It would be a providential retribution if, at the close of his labors at Cairo, Greely's old partner should be sent here to investigate the *Tribune's* market job, the first fruits of which are to be reaped by Massa Greely during the sessions of the anti-slavery societies in May. Greely has worn the white hat, white coat and white choker of a hypocrite very long, and it is most fitting that one who knows him so well as Dana shall strip the sheep's clothing from this abolition, contract-jobbing wolf, who has been defending Fremont's Californians only because he secretly knew that he himself deserved to share the fate they merited.

The Necessity of Passing the Tax Bill Without Delay.

Some of the Philadelphia papers and other journals elsewhere, judging from the delays which the Tax bill has encountered in the Senate at Washington, have intimated the suspicion that there is a secret purpose on the part of Congress to adjourn without passing the Tax bill or any tax bill. It is suggested that Congress is slow to take action in this vital matter from the fear of the operation of such a bill against them at the elections next fall. If this should be the case, and Congress were to adjourn without passing an adequate tax bill, they would inflict a greater blow to the credit of the country, and to its financial prosperity and prospects, than could possibly be inflicted upon the nation from any other quarter. Should this be true, and Congress should contemplate such an unworthy trick as to postpone the safety of the country to individual hopes and fears, sacrificing the nation itself and all its best interests to advance their own political fortunes, they may be sure that they would not succeed in saving themselves from the everlasting odium and infamy which would follow such an ignoble and self-serving course. They would not conciliate any party or persons at the fall elections by such a step; but, on the contrary, a universal clamor would be raised against every single member by every party throughout the North. They would commit a much greater error by failing to pass the bill than they could by voting for even the most imperfect one. They would injure themselves more than they possibly could by any bill of almost any kind.

We do not believe, for our part, that any such unpatriotic course finds favor in the mind of Congress, and we hope they will prove it by at once passing the Tax bill, leaving any accidental errors to be corrected hereafter by subsequent legislation.

It is also reported that there is a great pressure of individual interests upon Congress, seeking to obtain peculiar exemptions for particular cases, and that much of the delay is owing to this fact. If it is so, it goes to prove the general ignorance prevailing as to the action and ultimate bearing of a general system of taxation. All the taxable wealth and resources of the country resolve themselves into the two elements of land and labor. On these two the whole weight of taxation must ultimately fall. It is the land which supplies all the raw materials of wealth, and it is labor which works them up and fashions them. Land and labor, therefore, are the Atlas whose shoulders will have to support the burden. In this view of the case no mere local or individual interests should be allowed to interfere with this great national measure. It is a new thing to us to be taxed directly. We shall probably have to raise two hundred millions to pay the interest of the debt, provide a sinking fund and obtain a revenue adequate to the requirements of government; and this amount, compared with the total value of our annual productions, will require a taxation of eight or ten per cent, falling, as we have before remarked, upon land and labor. But, great as this is, what is it to the peril from which we are on the point of emerging by the valor of our armies and fleets and the bravery of our people?

It is the national credit which has equipped all these armaments, and may be said to have saved us, as a nation, from extinction. Will Congress, by shirking the responsibility of passing the Tax bill, destroy the public credit, destroy all the financial resources and prospects of the country, and plunge us into evils worse by far than the dreadful war which we are waging? Let us hope not.

ENTERPRISE VERSUS MEANNESS.—In advance, as usual, of our contemporaries, we published a few days ago the important despatch from General Beauregard seized by General Mitchell at Huntsville, Alabama. All of the other journals copied that despatch from our columns; but none of them gave us credit for it, and two or three were mean enough to assert that it was not genuine. Now all the Western papers have received the same despatch from their reporters at Huntsville, and its authenticity is so undoubted that the very New York journals which at first declared it a forgery, because our enterprise surpassed their own, are now inserting it in their bogus correspondence. This, we think, one of the clearest cases on record of our enterprise versus the meanness of our contemporaries.

THE GREAT OCEAN TELEGRAPH.—We publish this morning an interesting article on the present condition and prospects of this great enterprise, embracing an illustrated description of the improvements made during the last four years in submarine cables, as exhibited in the one which it is now proposed to submerge between Ireland and Newfoundland, the terminus of the Atlantic Telegraph. From the facts presented it will be seen that the company have received strong assurances of aid from the governments of the United States and Great Britain, and that this aid will be contributed in the form of a guaranteed interest of four per cent for a period of at least thirty years. The capital which it is proposed to raise for a renewal of the undertaking is seven hundred thousand pounds sterling, or three and a half millions of dollars; and this, it is presumed, there would be no difficulty in obtaining on the security afforded by the guarantee of the two governments.

Previous to the Atlantic Telegraph expedition of August, 1858, which ended in the submergence of the cable, there were three problems to be solved before its ultimate success could be regarded as certain. The first was the practicability of laying a cable across a vast tract of water that measured from land to land in its narrowest practicable part no less than sixteen hundred and forty nautical miles; the second was the manufacture of a cable of the required length, the conductor of which should be so perfectly insulated that its covering would be entirely impervious to sea water; and the third was to establish the possibility of sending the electric current through a conductor of such great length.

All of these three problems, which were to decide the final success of the enterprise, were solved in the most satisfactory manner. The mechanical difficulties in the way of submerging the cable were successfully overcome; the material used in its manufacture as an insulator secured the second important desideratum; and the transmission of several messages through the cable when laid, although it had been injured before it was placed on board the vessels from which it was to be submerged, settled the third point. Only one more problem remains—the commercial success of the undertaking. But the fact that there are no less than one hundred and fifty thousand miles of telegraph lines in Europe and America to which the Atlantic cable would be a feeder conclusively disposes of this last difficulty.

Should the governments of the United States and Great Britain agree, as there is every reason to believe they will, to guarantee the required interest on the specified capital, a large part of the risk of laying the cable will be assumed by the manufacturers. In conclusion, we may say that there is good reason to warrant the belief that such a cable as we have described will be laid some time during the summer of 1863.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH FLEET.—British statesmen cannot but feel what a narrow escape their navy has had from destruction by the iron-clad gunboats of America. By their own comments on the naval battle at Hampton Roads they admit it. Had war broken out in consequence of the capture of Mason and Slidell on board the Trent, of course a British fleet would have been sent to our ports, and every ship of it would have been sunk or put to flight. As an evidence of the tardiness of the British mind to seize an idea—a fact which is admitted by Mr. Osborne, very slow to be convinced—"we may refer to the fact that many millions have been expended on wooden war vessels within the last year, since iron-plated ships were proved by experiment, if not in actual war, to have rendered them of no value to the government. In the same way \$15,000,000 have been expended on Armstrong rifled guns; and yet it is now said that, for naval purposes, they are inferior to the old smooth bore sixty-eight-pounder at the short range at which naval actions usually take place. It was stated, indeed, in Parliament, both by Mr. Osborne and Lord Palmerston, that those guns at short range can penetrate the iron armor, and that this is now the only reliance of England against it. But an iron-clad vessel, with rifled shells, might not be so accommodating as to allow a wooden ship to get so close to her; and even if a sixty-eight-pounder did penetrate the iron, it could only be above the water line, and could do very little damage. It is clear enough that the British fleet has had a lucky escape.

FRUITS OF THE SESSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE.—In another part of this day's *HERALD* we publish a list of the bills passed by the Legislature of this State and signed by the Governor during the session which has just expired. They number nearly five hundred, or about five on an average for each day of the session. If the merits of the legislators were to be estimated by the amount of the work they have done, and not by its quality, they would be entitled to the highest praise. The tendency in recent years is to increase and multiply legislation without end. The wise men of other days believed that the smallest possible amount of legislation was desirable, on the principle that to govern best is to govern least. In these times bills are passed ignorantly, thoughtlessly or by fraud and corruption. In a short time they are repealed; and then again the repealing act is repealed. And so this vicious circle is run from one session to another. How few really vital and valuable measures are ever adopted by the Legislature. In the mass of chaff which is the fruit of the present session, how many grains of wheat can be found? Before we have a Legislature competent to make laws for the great Empire State of the Union the people must take more pains in the selection of the men who represent them at the State Capitol than they have hitherto done. They must get rid of the ignorant, degraded and corrupt men who disgrace the halls of legislation; and they must take care to elect men of intelligence, education and integrity. Then, and not till then, will matters go right. But, to accomplish this, all good men must take an active part in the elections, till the rascals and corruptionists are routed from the primary organizations, which are the foul sources of all the evils which are inflicted on the country by bad legislation.

A LESSON FROM ENGLAND.—It is well that our military authorities, the government and Congress should reflect upon the news from England informing us of the abandonment of the old fortifications as worthless, and of the substitution in their stead of iron-shed gunboats. We hope no more money will be spent on such fortifications in this country. It is already proposed in Congress, we are glad,